

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A network access device comprising:

a plurality of input ports;

a memory for storing ~~routing~~ data packets received on the plurality of input ports;

a switching fabric configured for packet switching ~~routing~~ of the data packets to at least one output port; and

control logic adapted to:

examine a first data packet comprising a physical address of a user device coupled to

one of the plurality of input ports;

authenticate the a physical address ~~of a user device coupled to one of the plurality of~~
~~input ports;~~

if the authentication of the physical address indicates the physical address is valid,

authenticate user information provided in a second data packet by a user of the user
device after the physical address is authenticated ~~only if the physical address is~~
~~valid; and~~

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is valid and if

the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure a
user policy, dynamically assign the a user policy to the one of the plurality of input
ports and restrict further traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports in
accordance with the user policy ~~only if the user information is valid and if the~~

~~network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure the user policy.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the physical address comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) address.
3. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the control logic is adapted to authenticate the user information in accordance with an IEEE 802.1x protocol.
4. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the user policy identifies an access control list.
5. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the user policy includes an access control list.
6. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the user policy identifies a Media Access Control (MAC) address filter.
7. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the user policy includes a Media Access Control (MAC) address filter.

8. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the control logic is adapted to send the user information to an authentication server and to receive an accept message from the authentication server if the user information is valid.
9. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 8, wherein the authentication server comprises a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server.
10. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 8, wherein the accept message includes the user policy.
11. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 1, wherein the control logic is further adapted to assign the one of the plurality of input ports to a virtual local area network (VLAN) associated with the user information if the user information is valid.
12. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 11, wherein the control logic is adapted to receive a message from an authentication server, wherein the message comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user information, and to assign the one of the plurality of input ports to a VLAN associated with the VLAN ID.
13. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for providing network security, the method comprising:

at authenticating in a network access device comprising a plurality of input ports and

configured for packet switching of data packets, examining a first data packet

comprising a physical address of a user device coupled to one of the plurality of input ports;

authenticating the a physical address of a user device coupled to a port of the network access device;

if the authentication of the physical address indicates the physical address is valid,

authenticating user information provided in a second data packet by a user of the user device after the physical address is authenticated ~~to the network access device only if the physical address is valid;~~ and

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is valid and if the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure a user policy, dynamically assigning the a user policy to the one of the plurality of input ports and restricting further traffic on the port in accordance with the user policy ~~only if the user information is valid and if the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure the user policy.~~

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the authenticating a physical address comprises authenticating a Media Access Control (MAC) address.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the authenticating the user information comprises authenticating the user information in accordance with an IEEE 802.1x protocol.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting access comprises restricting access to the one of the plurality of input ports in accordance with an access control list.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting access comprises restricting access to the one of the plurality of input ports in accordance with a Media Access Control (MAC) address filter.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the authenticating the user information comprises:

sending the user information to an authentication server; and receiving an accept message from the authentication server if the user information is valid.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the authentication server comprises a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the receiving an accept message comprises receiving an accept message that includes the user policy.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

assigning the port to a virtual local area network (VLAN) associated with the user information only if the user information is valid.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the assigning the port to a VLAN comprises:

receiving a message from an authentication server, wherein the message comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user information; and
assigning the port to a VLAN associated with the VLAN ID.

23. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising: ~~a data communications network;~~

a network access device comprising a plurality of input ports and configured for packet

switching of data packets in ~~coupled to a~~ the data communications network; and

a user device coupled to a port of the network access device;

wherein the network access device is adapted to:

examine a first data packet comprising a physical address of a user device coupled to

one of the plurality of input ports;

authenticate the physical address;

if the authentication of the physical address indicates the physical address is valid,

authenticate user information provided in a second data packet by a user of the user

device after the physical address is authenticated; and

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is valid and if

the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure a

user policy, dynamically assign the user policy to the one of the plurality of input

ports and restrict further traffic on the port in accordance with the user policy.

~~authenticate a physical address of the user device;~~

~~authenticate user information provided by a user of the user device only if the physical address is valid; and~~
~~dynamically assign a user policy to the input port and restrict further traffic on the port in accordance with the user policy only if the user information is valid and if the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure the user policy.~~

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the physical address comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) address.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the network access device is adapted to authenticate the user information in accordance with an IEEE 802.1x protocol.
26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the user policy identifies an access control list.
27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the user policy includes an access control list.
28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the user policy identifies a Media Access Control (MAC) address filter.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the user policy includes a Media Access Control (MAC) address filter.
30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
an authentication server coupled to the data communications network;
wherein the network access device is adapted to send the user information to the authentication server and to receive an accept message from the authentication server if the user information is valid.
31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the authentication server comprises a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the accept message includes the user policy.
33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the network access device is further adapted to assign the port to a virtual local area network (VLAN) associated with the user information if the user information is valid.
34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
an authentication server coupled to the data communications network;
wherein the network access device is adapted to receive a message from the authentication server, wherein the message comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user

information, and to assign the port to a VLAN associated with the VLAN ID if the user information is valid.

35. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 2 wherein the control logic is further configured to:

if authentication of the MAC address indicates the MAC address is invalid,

drop packets from the user device; or

disable the port;

if authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid, block all traffic on the port except for packets related to a user authentication protocol;

if authentication of user information indicates the user information is valid, determine

whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the network access device;

if the user is not associated with the VLAN,

assign the port to a port default VLAN; and

block all traffic on the port except for packets related to the user authentication protocol; and

if the user is associated with the VLAN,

assign the port to the VLAN associated with the user; and

forward packets from the user device.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

if the authenticating of the MAC address indicates the MAC address is invalid,

dropping packets from the user device; or

disabling the port;

if the authenticating user information indicates the user information is invalid, blocking all traffic on the port except for packets related to a user authentication protocol;

if the authenticating user information indicates the user information is valid, determining whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the network access device;

if the determining indicates the user is not associated with the VLAN,

 assigning the port to a port default VLAN; and

 blocking all traffic on the port except for packets related to the user authentication protocol; and

if the determining indicates the user is associated with the VLAN,

 assigning the port to the VLAN associated with the user; and

 forwarding packets from the user device.

37. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 24 wherein the network access device is further adapted to:
- if authentication of the MAC address indicates the MAC address is invalid,
- dropping packets from the user device; or
- disabling the port;
- if authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid, block all traffic on the port except for packets related to a user authentication protocol;
- if authentication of user information indicates the user information is valid, determine whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the network access device;
- if the user is not associated with the VLAN,

assign the port to a port default VLAN; and
block all traffic on the port except for packets related to the user authentication
protocol; and
if the user is associated with the VLAN,
assign the port to the VLAN associated with the user; and
forward packets from the user device.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of input ports;
a memory for storing ~~routing~~ data packets received on the plurality of input ports;
a switching fabric configured for packet switching ~~routing of~~ the data packets to at least one
output port; and
control logic adapted to:
examine a first data packet comprising a physical address of a user device coupled to
one of the plurality of input ports;
authenticate the a physical address ~~of a user device coupled to one of the plurality of~~
~~input ports;~~
drop packets from the user device if the physical address is invalid;
authenticate user information provided in a second data packet by a user of the user
device after the physical address is authenticated ~~only if the physical address is~~
~~valid;~~

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid,
block all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related
to a user authentication protocol;

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is valid,
determine whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the apparatus
by receiving a message from an authentication server, wherein the message
comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user information;

if the user is not associated with the VLAN,
assign the one of the plurality of input ports to a port default VLAN; and
block all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to
the user authentication protocol; and

if the user is associated with the VLAN and if the apparatus has enough system resources
to dynamically configure a user policy associated with the user information,
assign the one of the plurality of ports to the VLAN associated with the user; and
restrict access to the one of the plurality of input ports in accordance with the user
policy.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the apparatus comprises a switch
~~layer 2 network access device~~.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for providing network security, the
method comprising:

at a network access device comprising a plurality of input ports and configured for packet switching of data packets, examining a first data packet comprising a physical address of a user device coupled to one of the plurality of input ports;
authenticating the a physical address ~~of a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;~~
dropping packets from the user device if the physical address is invalid;
authenticating user information provided in a second data packet by a user of the user device after the physical address is authenticated ~~only if the physical address is valid;~~
if the authenticating of the user information indicates the user information is invalid,
blocking all traffic on the port except for packets related to a user authentication protocol;
if the authenticating of the user information indicates the user information is valid,
determining whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the network access device by receiving a message from an authentication server, wherein the message comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user information;
if the user is not associated with the VLAN,
assigning the one of the plurality of input ports to a port default VLAN; and
blocking all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to the user authentication protocol; and
if the user is associated with the VLAN and if the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure a user policy associated with the user information,
assigning the one of the plurality of ports to the VLAN associated with the user; and

restricting access to the one of the plurality of input ports in accordance with the a user policy.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the network access device switch comprises a ~~layer-2 switch~~ network access device.

42. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:

~~a data communications network;~~

a network access device comprising a plurality of input ports and configured for packet switching of data packets in ~~coupled to a~~ the data communications network; and

a user device coupled to a port of the network access device switch, wherein the network access device is adapted to:

examine a first data packet comprising a physical address of a user device coupled to one of the plurality of input ports;

authenticate the physical address;

drop packets from the user device if the physical address is invalid;

authenticate user information provided in a second data packet by a user of the user device after the physical address is authenticated;

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid, block all traffic on the port except for packets related to a user authentication protocol;

if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is valid,

determine whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the network access

device by receiving a message from an authentication server, wherein the message comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user information;

if the user is not associated with the VLAN,

assign the one of the plurality of input ports to a port default VLAN; and

block all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to the user authentication protocol; and

if the user is associated with the VLAN and if the network access device has enough system resources to dynamically configure a user policy associated with the user information,

assign the one of the plurality of ports to the VLAN associated with the user; and

restrict access to the one of the plurality of input ports in accordance with the a user policy.

~~authenticate a physical address of a user device coupled to one of the plurality of input ports;~~

~~drop packets from the user device if the physical address is invalid;~~

~~authenticate user information provided by a user of the device only if the physical address is valid;~~

~~if authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid, block all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to a user authentication protocol;~~

~~if authentication of user information indicates the user information is valid, determine whether the user is associated with a VLAN supported by the network access device by receiving a message from an authentication server, wherein the message comprises a VLAN identifier (ID) associated with the user information;~~

~~if the user is not associated with the VLAN;~~
~~assign the one of the plurality of input ports to a port default VLAN; and~~
~~block all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to~~
~~the user authentication protocol; and~~
~~if the user is associated with the VLAN and if the network access device has enough~~
~~system resources to dynamically configure a user policy associated with the user~~
~~information;~~
~~assign the one of the plurality of ports to the VLAN associated with the user; and~~
~~restrict access to the one of the plurality of input ports in accordance with the a user~~
~~policy.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 42, wherein the network access device comprises a switch ~~layer 2 network access device~~.
44. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 1 wherein the user information comprises a user name and a password.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein the user information comprises a user name and a password.
46. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 23 wherein the user information comprises a user name and a password.

47. (New) The network access device of Claim 1 wherein the control logic is further adapted to:
if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid, block
all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to a user
authentication protocol.
48. (New) The method of Claim 13, further comprising:
if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid,
blocking all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to
a user authentication protocol.
49. (New) The system of Claim 23 wherein the network access device is further adapted to:
if the authentication of the user information indicates the user information is invalid, block
all traffic on the one of the plurality of input ports except for packets related to a user
authentication protocol.